

Pritchard, Matthew Stewart

October 28, 1905

[Museum of Fine Arts Boston]

[Gives his professional opinion on several Mausolos coins the Chapman's sent to him]

[As for the Pixodares, our trustees will not consent to purchase Greek coins except under exceptionally favorable circumstances. We have one, but not one so delicate as yours.]



MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS
BOSTON, MASS.
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

October 28, 1903.

Dear Messrs. Chapman:

In reply to your letters of the 23rd and 24th current, I read the first sentence of your letter asking me to give my judgment on the Mausolos coins. and, laying down your letter, I proceeded to examine all four coins that were enclosed to me.

The ill-preserved tetradrachm seems to me to be in very fine style, and undoubtedly authentic; the Pixodaros coins are also, beyond dispute, antique. The remaining tetradrachm looked wrong, both from the peculiar thickness of the coin, the strange modelling of the face and treatment of the hair and crown. On the reverse also it seemed as though the artist had given Zeus a turban instead of a wreath. The inscription also appeared to be very shaky. These points would have made me very suspicious of the coin, and my suspicions were confirmed on close examination. The eyes are very badly treated, and the surface of the coin at that point has an appearance that I connect with cast work. At the same time I do not observe any of the marks

that one is accustomed to associate with ancient coins. I have no hesitation, therefore, in giving you my opinion that the coin is modern.

With reference to your kind offer of the beautiful Pixodaros, I am afraid that our Trustees will not consent to purchase Greek coins except under very exceptionally favorable circumstances. We already possess good specimens of the coin, though nothing as delicate as yours.

You will understand that it will give me the greatest pleasure at any time to be of assistance to you so far as may be in my power.

Believe me to be,

Very sincerely,

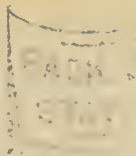
M. S. Richard

Secretary to the Director.

Richard

11/1/06
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S. H. & H. Chapman,

1348 Pine St;

Philadelphia,

Penn.